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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Earl Ronald Owen, et al.	:	
Application No. 10/601,825	:	DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: June 23, 2003	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.55(c)
Attorney Docket No. 577122000101	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c), filed February 6, 2004, for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) for benefit of the filing date of foreign Application No. PN 0667, filed January 19, 1996.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority requires:

- (1) The nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date must be filed on or after November 29, 2000;
- (2) the claim submitted with the petition must identify the prior foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by the application number, country, and the filing date and be included either in an oath or declaration (37 CFR 1.63(c)(2)) or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(b)(6));
- (3) the surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
- (4) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. (The Commissioner

- (5) the above-identified nonprovisional application must be filed within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign application.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and did not include a reference to the foreign application, for which benefit is now sought, within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior foreign application. Therefore, since the claim for priority is submitted after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1)(i), this is an appropriate petition under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.55(c).

The above-identified pending, nonprovisional application was filed on June 23, 2003, which is after November 29, 2000 and within 12 months of January 19, 1996 (the filing date of the intermediate PCT Application No. PCT/AU96/00024 to which benefit is now being claimed). On February 6, 2004, an executed oath/declaration was received which identifies the foreign application for which priority is claimed by application number, country and filing date. The required petition fee of \$1330 was received with the petition. Lastly, petitioner has provided an adequate statement of unintentional delay.

All requirements being met, the petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is **granted**.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 3731 for examination in due course and for consideration by the examiner of record of the foreign priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

Any inquiries directly pertaining to this matter may be directed to Sherry Brinkley at (703) 305-9220.



Frances M. Hicks

Lead Petitions Examiner

Office of Petitions

Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy